(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the reason for neglecting Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)	State	No. of Commissionerates/Districts
	Chhattisgarh	3
	Himachal Pradesh	3
	Jharkhand	4
	Orissa	7
	Punjab	4
	Rajasthan	2
	Uttaranchal	2
	Uttar Pradesh	70

In addition to the above, NIC has also created Video conferencing facility at 29 U.T. State locations, including the following from the Southern States:

Bangalore	(Karnataka)
Chennai	(Tamil Nadu)
Hyderabad	(Andhra Pradesh
Vishakhapatnam	(Andhra Pradesh)
Pondicherry	(U.T.)
Thiruvanthapuram	(Kerala)

(c) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of Science and Technology Advisory Committee

5294. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Science and Technology Advisory Committee was reconstituted late in the year 1997;

(b) if so, what was the necessity felt to reconstitute it; and

(c) what were the thrust areas for R&D work and what were the achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent upon the restructuring of the Ministry, the Department of Sugar was clubbed with Department of Edible Oils, and hence the Science & Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) was reconstituted on 2nd December, 1997.

(c) Some of the thrust identified for R&D Programme for development of Vegetable Oils are as under:—

(a) Technology for up-gradation of non-edible oils to edible oils/ edible grade oils such as neem oil, caster oil and rice bran oil etc.

(b) Application of frontier areas of technology such as membrance refining technology, bio-refining, bio-interesterification etc. of oilseeds/oils processing.

(c) Detoxification of oilseeds/oilcakes/extractions.

(d) Up-gradation of huller rice bran and refining of rice bran oil.

(e) Development soabeen oil with improved, low cost analytical methods/techniques for detection/determination of adulterants in fats and oils including Vanaspati.

(f) Proposals for tie up arrangement between R&D institutes/ organizations and industry for upscaling/organizations and industry for up-scaling of technology developed.

(g) Popularisation of technology found suitable.

(h) Development of low cost packaging for fats and oils etc.

Some of the R&D Projects' achievements which have been found giving benefits to the vegetable oils Industry are as under:—

(i) Modernisation of huller rice mills.

(ii) Development of 1 TPD high efficiency oil expeller.

(iii) Recovery of waste from vegetable oils processing industries.

(iv) Study on the use of high erucic acid containing rapeseed oil/ mustard oil/Vanaspati.

(v) Development of low cost packaging materials.

(vi) Development of economic and functional packages for food products with emphasis of edible oil and Vanaspati, new products development such as development of fat spread.

(vii) Upscaling interesterification process for determination of design data and cost for preparation of vegetable oils and margarine wastes etc.

National Nutrition Mission in Andhra Pradesh

5295. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) wether the National Nutrition Mission which was announced by the Prime Minister on the Independence Day Address of 2001, has come into force for implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of NNM in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details are being drawn up.

(c) The proposal for setting-up and operationalising the National Nutrition Mission is as yet under finalisation.

Generation of power by sugar industries

5296. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar industries have the potential to generate about 4000 MW of additional power per year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to utilize this captive power generation capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken for proper utilization of by-products of sugar industry?